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BOOK REVIEWS.

COMMENTARIES ON THE CONSTITUTION OF PENNSYLVANIA.
By THOMAS RAEBURN WHITE of the Philadelphia Bar.
Pp. XXVII and 618. Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson
Co. 1907.

For many years there has been a manifest need of a book which would contain a careful exposition of the interpretations which have been placed by the Courts on the Constitution of Pennsylvania. This want is admirably supplied by Mr. White's excellent volume. His treatment of the constitutional law of this Commonwealth as it has been developed by the Courts although comprehensive, is yet so concise that his work is produced in the form of a single volume. The book was prepared in a large measure while Mr. White, as Assistant Professor in the Law Department of the University of Pennsylvania, was engaged in lecturing on the Constitution and statute law of the state. This book is not intended to take the place of Mr. Buckalew's "An Examination of the Constitution of Pennsylvania" which was published shortly after the Constitutional Convention of 1873, but rather to treat of the interpretation of the Constitution since that time.

The brief historical introduction with which Mr. White has prefaced his book, will prove of great interest to everyone who has not had an opportunity to study the development of the Pennsylvania constitutions from the date of the Royal Charter of Charles II to the present day.

The various chapters of the book treat of the different provisions of the Constitution under appropriate captions, e.g.—Local and Special Legislation; Limitations of the Legislative Power; The Executive; Railroads and Canals. The general scheme is to quote in each instance the constitutional provision relating to a particular subject. This is followed by a statement of the development of the law to the present, usually supported by extracts from the opinions of the Supreme Court.

To illustrate more fully the scope of the work it will be worth while to briefly examine his treatment of the complex subject of local legislation. After a brief discussion of the classification of acts as general or local and special, Mr. White refers to the abuses arising prior to 1873 from the passage of almost countless private acts, and then quotes

the constitutional prohibitions against special legislation. The questions arising under the various attempts at classification are treated with brevity and clearness with references to all the leading cases, e.g.—*Wheeler v. Philadelphia*, 77 Pa. 338 (1875), and *Com. v. Moir*, 199 Pa. 534. No attempt is made to refer to every case in which the subject has been mentioned as the author properly regards that as the province of a digest rather than of a book of commentaries, but sufficient cases are cited to make clear every statement.

Mr. White's book is a valuable addition to the legal literature of Pennsylvania. It contains an accurate, clearly expressed and broad treatment of every question which has been dealt with in Pennsylvania Courts in which the interpretation of the Constitutions has been involved. The verbatim quotations from judicial opinions while occasionally too lengthy, serve to supplement the careful commentaries of the author. To everyone interested in questions of constitutional law whether as a practitioner, a legislator or a student Mr. White's work will prove most useful and of great interest.

R. D. J.

THE INTERNATIONAL LAW AND DIPLOMACY OF THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR. By AMOS S. HERSHEY, Ph.D. Professor of Political Science and International Law in Indiana University. New York: The MacMillan Company 1906.

To those who are in search of an interesting narrative of the diplomatic incidents connected with the Russo-Japanese war the above book will prove a gratifying discovery. It is written in an easy style and holds one's interest remarkably well for a technical work. Here indeed lies an important fact, the book is not technical and therefore the student and the international lawyer must accept its statements with several grains of salt.

In the first place the plan of the book is poor. There is no logical sequence in the treatment of the various topics and no division between the problems presented by incidents of land warfare and those arising upon the sea. Then too the author gives you frankly to understand at an early stage that he does not pretend to be impartial and the result is that this essay is almost offensively pro-Japanese. This expression is used advisedly because a work of this kind should be written absolutely without prejudice if it is to be of any use at all. There may be other places but so far as the reviewer can ascertain the only point where the Japanese